

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL  
BOARD  
SAN DIEGO REGION  
(SDRWQCB)**

**SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT APPLICATION FORM**

Project Requested by The San Diego River Park Foundation

Name of Project: Mission Valley Preserve Restoration Activities

Date of Request April 12, 2005

Point of Contact Rob Hutsel

Phone (619)297-7380

E-Mail rhutsel@sandiegoriver.org

Project Summary: This project is to provide support to an existing Wetlands Recovery Project Small Project Grant funded effort within the City of San Diego's Mission Valley Preserve. The project is removing significant accumulations of trash from abandoned illegal encampments and trash washed down the river in recent historic rains, treating or removing non-native invasive plants, and installing interpretive panels in the Preserve's native plant garden. This funding would enable the continuation of this project for one year including the removal of the final trash piles after the bird nesting season is completed in September. Additionally, two interpretive panels will be designed, constructed and installed, one addressing the endangered and threatened species within the Preserve and the other addressing the impact of urban runoff on the Preserve and the San Diego River, which runs through its center. SDRPF will work with the Friends of Mission Valley Preserve and the City of San Diego on the long-term maintenance of the project area.

|  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| Total Life Cycle Cost for the Project: | \$                 |
| Project Overhead/Management            | \$1500.00          |
| Design/Consultation                    | \$2000.00          |
| Construction/Implementation \$         | \$13,000.00        |
| Long Term Maintenance/Oversight        | \$0.00             |
| <b>Total Project Cost</b>              | <b>\$16,500.00</b> |

Watershed/Water Body/Location for Project

\_San Diego River

Project Proposed Start Date and Time Line

June 1, 2005 start date

April 1, 2006 end date

Organization Sponsoring Project: The San Diego River Park Foundation  
(EIN 01-0565671)

Name of Project Manager Rob Hutsel

Phone (619)-297-7380

Designated Project Trustee Rob Hutsel

Description of Project Trustee capability or commitments to ensure that the project will be complete:

The San Diego River Park Foundation is the only organization dedicated to stewardship of the entire San Diego River Watershed. As the chair of the San Diego River Coalition, we are uniquely qualified to long-term commitment of stewardship activities. We are

currently involved with several relatively large projects including the \$452,000 San Diego River Restoration Project, \$950,000 Lower San Diego River Private Landowner Incentive Program; and the \$4,139,000.00 Flood Control, Habitat Restoration and Recharge on the San Diego River Project. SDRPF is currently working on a small project funded through the Wetlands Recovery Project. Through this grant and other efforts over 140 tons of trash has been removed from the Mission Valley Preserve and non-native targeted plant species have been mapped with a GPS unit. SDRPF has been working closely with the City of San Diego and others to address illegal encampments to reduce the source of much of the Preserve trash. This challenge is largely under control at this point.

Statement of Project Trustee ability/authority to receive and disburse funds

The San Diego River Park Foundation is a 501c3 non-profit California corporation.

---

## DETAILED PROJECT INFORMATION

### 1. PROPOSAL DESCRIPTION

The San Diego River collects trash and other pollutants from the urban canyons of Mission Valley and along the banks of the River and carries it toward its estuary and the Pacific Ocean. The Mission Valley Preserve is a 51 acre City preserve with the River running through its center with its western boundary adjacent to I-5 and the intertidal area of the River. This Preserve has largely been abandoned until recent years when a community effort has been undertaken to begin to clean up the riparian area and to create a City of San Diego Open Space Park. Working with the Police Department, Homeless Service Providers, Park and Recreation Department and others, the San Diego River Park Foundation in partnership with the all-volunteer Friends of Mission Valley Preserve significant strides have been taken. Funding has been received through 3 small grants to do initial work.

This project will provide the funding to complete the removal of remaining large trash piles and targeted non-native plant species, including palms. Palms will be treated with appropriate herbicides by qualified individuals. The limited number of remaining non-palm species would be removed by volunteers hand tools and either hauled to a landfill or chipped up to be used as mulch. A cut stump technique will be used to apply appropriate herbicide by a qualified volunteer.

Tree and trash locations have been mapped by SDRPF interns and staff and others with GPS equipment so that removal activities can be tracked and annual management activities planned. This funding could play a critical step in completing this project by providing support to organize community clean-up and habitat improvement activities. Funding will go toward supplies and disposal fees as well as project planning and oversight by SDRPF.

A final component of this project will be to install two interpretive signs, 3 feet by 2 feet in size. One sign will be used to discuss threatened or endangered species within the Preserve, including the wandering skipper, least Bell's vireo and southwest willow

flycatcher. The other sign will demonstrate the impact of urban runoff of the Preserve, including these species, as well the River. The signs will be placed in a high visibility area to increase recreational enjoyment as well as provide education to help change behavior to reduce pollution entering the river system.

## 2. PROBLEM STATEMENT

The San Diego River is listed on the impaired water body list. As an urban area, it also suffers greatly from trash improperly disposed of within the watershed. The Mission Valley Preserve sits at a critical location as one of the largest riparian areas remaining within Mission Valley and immediately adjacent to the River's intertidal area.

As a portion of the River which has long been neglected, it has for many years suffered the public health and environmental degradation of illegal encampments. Just a couple of years ago, a survey identified over 100 illegal lodgers within the 51 acre Preserve. The San Diego River Park Foundation working with many parties including the City of San Diego has brought in homeless outreach teams and services to begin to address this challenge. Today, the number of illegal lodgers has dropped to just a few. As a result significant piles of trash have been removed amounting to over 140 tons over the past two years. Funding is needed to support the community in finalizing clean-up efforts and to remove the few remaining non-native targeted tree species and to treat non-native palms within the Preserve. SDRPF working with The Friends of Mission Valley Preserve is hoping to create this as a jewel of the River Park system, a place where people can go to interact and learn about nature and the River system, and a place where the River riparian system and associated flora and fauna can thrive. Today, the Preserve has a reputation of being unsafe and has limited public amenities. Support for this project is needed to overcome this perception (and reality) so that people will become stewards of this precious resource which is located next to a trolley station and is therefore easily reachable by the larger San Diego community.

## 3. HOW WILL THE PROJECT BENEFIT WATER QUALITY AND BENEFICIAL USES?

The removal of trash, hypodermic needles, human waste will improve water quality. As the Preserve sits almost entirely within the River's floodway, items can be washed downstream as was recently documented in this year's rainstorms. Much of this trash was also trapped against vegetation. Beneficial uses of the River that will benefit are non-contact recreation, endangered and listed species, aquatic species, and downstream contact recreation uses.

The SDRPF through its citizen-based water monitoring program will continue to conduct monthly monitoring to measure the water column and do a visual assessment.

## 4. HOW WILL THE SUCCESS OF THIS PROJECT BE MEASURED?

Success will be measured by"

- 1) Pounds of trash removed
- 2) Number of volunteers participating

- 3) Percentage of targeted non-native plants treated or removed
- 4) Number of people enjoying the Preserve's garden through volunteer work parties and events.

5. DETAILED WORK PLAN

a. Scope of work (work to be performed)

Task 1            Design, construct and install 2 interpretive signs  
Two 2 foot x 3 foot panels will be designed and constructed by a consultant. The signs will be installed either by volunteers or with the assistance of the consultant.

Task 2            Organize 3 clean-up events  
Events will be organized between September and December 2006. Dumpsters will be arranged to take materials to a local landfill. SDRPF staff and volunteers will help design the events and the work program and provide necessary orientation and training on the day of the event to volunteers. As part of this effort, supplies will be purchased for these events to support the volunteers. Work will be documented through photography and GPS recording of project site and details.

Task 3            Habitat removal  
Identified palms will be treated with herbicide. The limited number of non-palm targeted species will be cut down with hand tools. A cut stump technique will be used to apply roundup or other appropriate herbicide by a qualified individual. Where possible debris will be left to discourage illegal encampments and at a later time (prior to rainy season) either chipped up for mulch or hauled to a local landfill. Two chain saws will be purchased along with related supplies (chains, gas, herbicide, etc.). These supplies will be used to support ongoing maintenance efforts once the project is completed. This work will be performed by Friends of Mission Valley Preserve and SDRPF volunteers and coordinated by SDRPF at monthly work parties as needed until the work is completed (prior to the start of nesting season). Work will be documented through photography and GPS recordings of work.

Task 4            Reporting and Project Administration  
Reports for the SDRWQCB will be produced after 6 months and at the conclusion of the project. Reports will include photo-documentation, GIS produced maps, volunteer sign-in records and the text of the interpretive panels.

Task 5

b. Budget

|        |        |
|--------|--------|
| Task 1 | \$7000 |
| Task 2 | \$4000 |
| Task 3 | \$4000 |
| Task 4 | \$1500 |

c. Task descriptions

See detailed work plan above.

d. Methods and materials

For the treatment of non-trees, two techniques will be used” cut-stump” application of herbicide after tree has been sawed by hand tools (either chain saw or hand saw) and drilling of palms for application of herbicide. Appropriate herbicides (such as Round-Up or Garlon) will be applied by a qualified individual. All individuals using chain saws will have been trained and approved by the City of San Diego.

e. Resource needs

n/a

f. Regulatory issues (environmental reviews, permits, etc.)

No permits or regulatory reviews are anticipated for this project.

g. Schedule

|            |                                     |
|------------|-------------------------------------|
| Task one   | Months 0 – 3                        |
| Task two   | September 15 – December 31, 2006    |
| Task three | September 15, 2006 – March 15, 2007 |
| Task four  | 6 months and at end of project      |

h. Work products and documents to be retained for records

Volunteer sign-in sheets

GIS produced maps of GPS recorded field data

Interpretive sign design

Photo-documentation and monthly water monitoring performed by SDRPF volunteers.

i. Other information about the proposed project that may be of interest to the SDRWQCB.

***I certify that the information provided in this application is an accurate and complete report of the costs, scope of work and expectations of this proposed project I am submitting to the SDRWQCB.***

**SIGNATURE**

*Va G. Hutzel*

**Date**

*4/19/05*